Land available for Housing Projects in Delhi

320. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land likely to be made available for the housing projects in Delhi with the repeal of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 and

(b) what steps have, so far, been taken to enforce the said Act and how much land has been released in the process?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that approximately 400 hectares of land will be available for housing and infrastructure development following the repeal of the Act. However, the exact availability of land for housing projects will be determined on the basis of Land Use in the Master Plan, Building Bye-Laws and other regulations in force. The Act automatically stands enforced in Delhi after the repeal of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

WTO agreement on Agriculture

1834. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that WTO agreement on agriculture is scheduled to be reviewed in the year 2000;

(b) whether the perceptions and interests of the developed and under-developed countries are at divergence;

(c) whether there is a need to protect the interests of our country against decisions detrimental to our interest; and

(d) if so, what are the Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) In terms of Article 20 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, members have agreed that negotiations for continuing the reform process in trade in agriculture will be initiated one year before the end of the implementation period, which ends at the end of the year 2000. This implies that negotiations on

the agreement on Agriculture are mandated with effect from 1.1.2000.

(b) There does not appear to be divergence in perception and interests between various countries in the agriculture sector based on their respective state of overall developments but such a divergence in their perceptions is due to huge variance in the quantum of overall support given by them to their respective agriculture sectors.

(c) India's interests will be safeguarded and strongly projected.

(d) The Ministry of Commerce and Industry had commissioned a detailed study on the subject "The Uruguay Round Agreement and Indian Agriculture: Strategic Issues for the future." Ministry of Agriculture has also got studies conducted through Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Delhi and Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad on related topics. A process of consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture, other connected Ministries, State Governments, and with political parties, has also been initiated and the inputs received in the consultation process and through other channels including the Study Reports, would be fully made use of in the forthcoming negotiations to protect the interests of our country.

Time Taken for Deciding Anti-Dumping Duties Cases

1835. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average time taken by Government to decide about anti-dumping duties cases after the same is initiated; and

(b) how does it compare with other countries of the world?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per the anti-dumping provisions the time allowed for the investigations and submission of final findings is one year from the date of initiation of the investigation except in special circumstances, when this time can be extended by 6 months with the approval of the Central Government. Preliminary findings are, however, finalised in 4-5 months.

(b) The time taken in EU is 7-8 months on an average for completing preliminary investigations and imposing anti-dumping duty.